

IN THE SPECIFICATION

At page 1, after the title, please amend as follows:

This application is a continuation of PCT/DK01/00148, filed March 7, 2001.

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendment is respectfully requested, in order to correct a clerical error.

This application was allowed October 28, 2002. The issue fee is due January 28, 2003, and has not yet been paid.

The amendment is necessary to correct a clerical error in the Examiner's amendment accompanying the Notice of Allowance.¹ The Examiner's amendment entered the benefit claim under 35 U.S.C. §120 into the specification, and stated that the priority application PCT/DK01/00148 was filed March 3, 2001. In fact, the priority application PCT/DK01/00148 was filed March 7, 2001. A copy of the International Application PCT/DK01/00148, published as WO 01/47877 A2, is attached at Tab A. The face of WO '877, at item (22), indicates the March 7, 2001 International filing date.

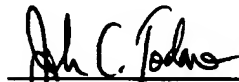
This amendment does not add new matter, does not change the scope of the claims, and does not involve any substantial additional work by the Patent and Trademark Office. Since the amendment corrects a formal matter and does not affect the substance of the application, it is respectfully requested that the amendment be entered without withdrawing this application from allowance.

¹ The benefit claim to the International application had been made by preliminary amendment in the transmittal letter filed December 20, 2001. The original benefit claim correctly stated the March 7, 2001 International filing date.

Favorable action is earnestly solicited.

November 12, 2002

Respectfully submitted,



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No.: 5432/OK116

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Andrea CASTELLIN ET AL.

Serial No: 10/035,005

Group Art Unit: 1625

Filed: December 20, 2001

Examiner: Bernard I. DENTZ

Confirmation No.: 1065

For: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF PURE CITALOPRAM

Allowed: October 28, 2002

**AMENDMENT MARK-UP SHEET FOR AMENDMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.312**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington DC 20231

Please amend this application as follows.

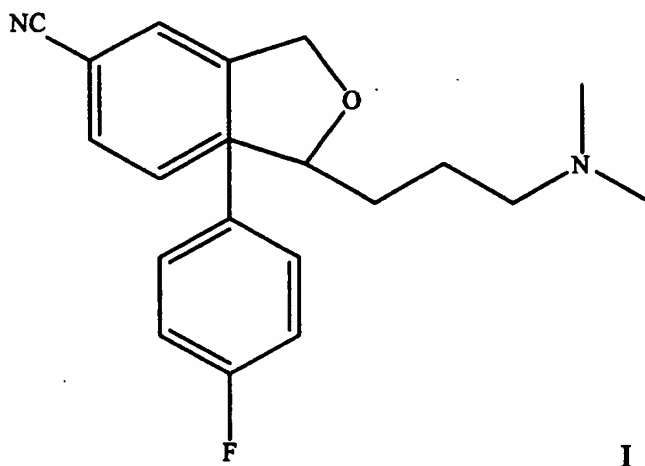
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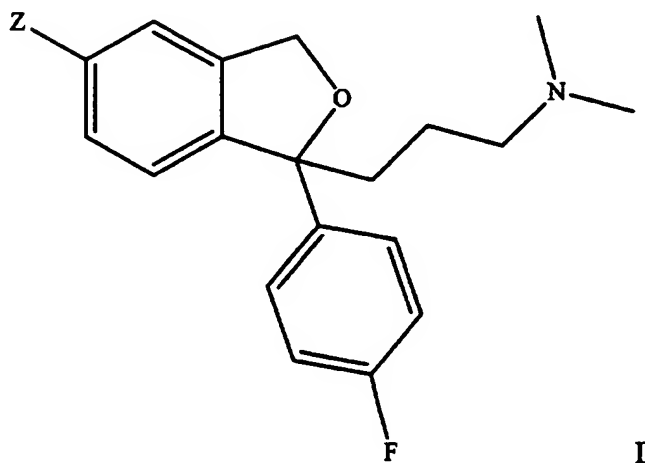
This application is a continuation of PCT/DK01/00148, filed March [3] 7, 2001.

**ALLOWED CLAIMS IN U.S. PATENT
APPLICATION SERIAL NO. 10/035,005
PER NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE MAILED 10/28/02**

1. A process for the preparation of citalopram of formula I



in which a compound of formula II



wherein Z is iodo, bromo, chloro or $\text{CF}_3\text{-(CF}_2)_n\text{-SO}_2\text{-O-}$; and

n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8;

is subjected to a cyanide exchange reaction in which the group Z is exchanged with cyanide by reaction with a cyanide source;

the resultant crude citalopram product is optionally subjected to some initial purification and the crude citalopram base is subsequently subjected to a film distillation process;

the resulting citalopram product is then optionally further purified and worked up and isolated as the base or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. The process of claim 1, wherein the film distillation process is short path or thin film layer distillation.

3. The process of claim 2, wherein the film distillation process is thin film layer distillation.

4. The process of claim 1, wherein the crude citalopram base is dissolved in an appropriate solvent before it is subjected to film distillation.

5. The process of claim 1, wherein the distillation temperature is 200-330°C and the pressure is 0.1-2.0 mmHg.

⁵²⁶
e 7 6. The process of claim 4, wherein the distillation temperature is 240-270°C and the pressure is

0.6 - 0.8 mmHg.

7. The process of claim 1 wherein Z is bromo and the cyanide exchange reaction is carried out by reaction with cuprous cyanide in a suitable solvent.

8. The process of claim 1 wherein Z is iodo, bromo, chloro or $\text{CF}_3-(\text{CF}_2)_n-\text{SO}_2-\text{O}-$, n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8, and the cyanide exchange reaction is carried out by reaction with a cyanide source in the presence of a palladium catalyst and a catalytic amount of Cu^+ or Zn^{2+} .

9. The process of claim 1 wherein Z is iodo, bromo, chloro or $\text{CF}_3-(\text{CF}_2)_n-\text{SO}_2-\text{O}-$, n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8, and the cyanide exchange reaction is carried out with $\text{Zn}(\text{CN})_2$ in the presence of a palladium catalyst.

10. The process of claim 8, wherein Z is bromo.

11. The process of claim 1, wherein Z is chloro or bromo and the cyanide exchange reaction is carried out with a cyanide source in the presence of a nickel catalyst.

12. The process of claim 8, wherein Z is chloro.

add
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